

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Tohru NISHIOKA, et al.

Application No.:

Group Art Unit:

Filed: December 16, 2003

Examiner:

For: CONVERSION APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:
 - 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
 - 1b. ☒ Copies of IDS citations.
 - 1c. ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
 - 1d. ☒ English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
 - 1e. ☐ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
2. ☒ In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is

(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)

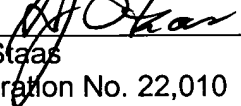
- 2a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed "English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office". (See MPEP 609, Minimum Requirements for an Information Disclosure Statement, Part A(3): Concise Explanation of Relevance, pp. 600-100 to 600-101, Rev. 1, Feb. 2000.)
- 2b. ☒ set forth in the application.

- 2c. ☒ satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.
- 2d. ☐ enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

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H. J. Staas
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| FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 1614.1374 | APPLICATION NO. |
| | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Tohru NISHIOKA, et al. | |
| | FILING DATE December 16, 2003 | GROUP ART UNIT |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | FILING DATE |
|---------------------|----|-----------------|------|------|-------|---------------|----------------|
| | AA | | | | | | |
| | AB | | | | | | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | |
| | AF | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO | |
|--|----|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|---------------|-----------------------|--|
| | AG | 6-274710 | 09/1994 | Japan | | | abs | |
| | AH | 8-056246 | 02/1996 | Japan | | | abs | |
| | AI | | | | | | | |
| | AJ | | | | | | | |
| | AK | | | | | | | |
| | AL | | | | | | | |

OTHER REFERENCES (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)

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| | AM | |
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|--|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. | |